

Nancy McLaughlin  
MA  
July 2010

House Committee Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Request for Repeal of the GPS and WEP  
Dear Committee Members:

The purpose of this submission is to urge Congress to take immediate action to pass the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 235/S, 484), which would repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.

I graduated college in 1974 always certain of my teaching career. After five years juggling Proposition Two and a Half layoffs, I left teaching for the business world. Along with my part time work as a student, working in various sectors of business for over 16 years built up my social security contributions.

When my manufacturing company decided to farm out their assembly, I left my job in purchasing to return to teaching. At the present I have been teaching for the past 12 years.

My concern is that these offsets take away retired public employees' benefits that they have earned, often forcing them into poverty. I do not believe that those of us who have served as public employees should suffer a penalty for working to provide public services.

The GPO and WEP could discourage talented people from entering the teaching profession where there is a urgent need for dedicated employees. Both the House and the Senate held hearings in the 110th Congress, but the bill has not moved out of the committee. The retirement benefits of retired educators, those still in the profession, and those seeking to enter the profession are greatly reduced or eliminated by this Offset.

I urge Congress to move the Social Security Fairness Act forward for a vote. In addition, if Congress takes up overall social security reform, I urge inclusion of repeal of the GPO and WEP as part of any reform package.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy McLaughlin